

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR: Aaron T. Jones

DOCKET NO.: 112300-030

APPLICATION NO. 09/680,349

EXAMINER: Corbutt B. Coburn

FILED: October 5, 2000

ART UNIT: 3714

INVENTION: GAMING DEVICE PROVIDING PAY TABLE INFORMATION
FOR A SYMBOL THROUGH SELECTION OF THE SYMBOL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 OF SUSAN ABERNATHY

Sir:

I, Susan Abernathy, hereby state as follows:

1. I am currently employed as Director of Gaming Operation Administration at IGT. My employment at IGT began in February 8, 1984. I am familiar with wagering gaming machines and the gaming machine industry.

2. I submit this Declaration in response to the Examiner's statement of the need for further evidence of the long-felt need for the solution provided by the present invention.

3. I have read over 30 incident reports related to slot machine players indicating that they were confused by the paytables of slot machines. These reports are not exhaustive. They are merely a sampling of the numerous incident reports which are received by IGT each year. These reports come from casinos in different geographical regions (e.g., Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon) and from different time periods (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003).

4. A report from a Nevada casino on April 17, 2000 states "She was

credited with 4000 coins, which, according to the payable, was the correct amount for that particular combination. The player, however, believed she had won 25 times the primary progressive amount ... they were unable to convince the customer of that fact.”

5. A report from a Nevada casino on April 21, 2000 states “According to the casino, the customer is not reading the glass correctly.... Per our CS tech the machine did not malfunction – customer was not reading the glass properly. Per the CS tech, he said that our glass was okay, the customer was just confused.”

6. A report from a Nevada casino on May 19, 2000 states “From the pay table this combination states the customer was to receive 1600 coins. The customer disputed this and said it should be 3200 coins and that the pay table does not make it clear.... They concluded that the dispute was in the misunderstanding of the pay table.”

7. A report from a Nevada casino on June 21, 2000 states “GCB explained to the customer that he had only won 1000 credits (1000 dollars) and then clarified this by showing customer the glass. GCB said that the glass was a little hard to understand.”

8. A report from a Nevada casino on June 28, 2000 states “the pay table was explained to him.”

9. A report from a Nevada casino on May 26, 2002 states “the Gaming Commissions office and had Gordon come out to explain the payline to the customer.”

10. A report from a Nevada casino on June 7, 2002 states "The CS Tech explained the pay table to the customer."

11. A report from an Arizona casino on September 6, 2002 states "Prudent stated she had explained the pay tables on the glass to the customer but he did not accept the explanation given."

12. A report from a Nevada casino on September 18, 2002 states "Per the pay table on the game, this winning combination should only be paid \$1000.00. Steve attempted to explain this to the customer, but he didnt [sic] agree and asked that GCB come out and settle this dispute.... The Agent then explained the pay table to the customer."

13. A report from a Nevada casino on January 13, 2003 states "George had explained the pay table to the customer and customer then thought he should be paid double the winning amount of \$800.00...Joe spoke with Gaming Control Agent Sonny Pastor, who was on site and explained the pay table to the customer."

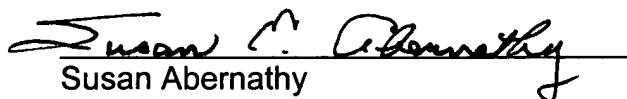
14. A report from an Oregon casino on June 7, 2003 states "the customer was disputing the payline that was displayed on the Reel Glass."

15. A report from a Nevada casino on December 1, 2003 states "The pay table on the top glass was explained to the customer."

16. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the

United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent.

Executed this 10th day of December, 2004.


Susan Abernathy